

Filed for intro on 04/03/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 576  
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor Eska Sessoms Garrison of Rutherford County upon receiving the Distinguished Leadership Award for a Citizen Planner.

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2000, in New York City, the American Planning Association will present its Distinguished Leadership Award for a Citizen Planner to Mrs. Eska Sessoms Garrison of Rutherford County for her years of community activism, including twenty-five years of monitoring meetings of the Rutherford County Planning Commission in her role as Chair of the League of Women Voter's Land Use Committee; and

WHEREAS, when Mrs. Garrison first began attending planning commission meetings there were almost no citizens in attendance, as the Commission met for lunch in a very small area; when they met in the council rooms of the old city office building, there was little public notice of the meetings. Under her leadership the League sponsored seminars and printed booklets to inform citizens on how to attend planning commission meetings and communicate their desires to the commission; and

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WHEREAS, Eska Garrison learned the importance of public planning when she and her family first moved to Murfreesboro; zoning peculiarities permitting quarries in residential areas zoned agricultural and buildings on flood plains reinforced the lesson; and

WHEREAS, during Mrs. Garrison's years as a member of the League of Women Voters, the League sponsored candidate forums, and published a booklet entitled "Know Your Local Government"; and

WHEREAS, Eska Garrison's stature among people involved in the Rutherford County planning process is such that Planning Commission members have approached her for her opinion on issues to come before the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Garrison was very active with the 1999 Kid's City educational program, sponsored by Mr. John Davis, to educate young people about local government issues; she was subsequently honored by the American Planning Association for her assistance with the program; and

WHEREAS, Eska Garrison has been actively involved in the Rutherford County Strategic Plan, which she hopes will address the long-term goal of establishing better cooperation between county and municipal government, whether by charter government, metro government, or the joining of school systems; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Garrison is keenly aware of the rapid growth of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County and has been an unflagging supporter of proper planning to ensure that the needs of a rapidly expanding school population, green spaces, and all the other needs attendant upon dynamic growth are met; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work with the League of Women Voters, Eska Garrison has served with distinction as a school board member, Chair of the City Hall Arts Committee, member of the Advisory Board of Hospice of Murfreesboro Community, and countless other activities; she is also an active and faithful member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Garrison enjoys the love and support of her husband, Dr. S. C. Garrison, their daughters Susan and Joyce, and seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Andrew Gordon, Chairman of the American Planning Association's Awards Committee appropriately stated, "Residents owe Eska Garrison a debt of gratitude for her contributions to make Rutherford County more livable through more effective planning. She exemplifies what citizen planning is about". She truly embodies the best of community volunteerism and activism; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly joins the good citizens of Rutherford County in congratulating Mrs. Eska Sessoms Garrison upon her receipt of the American Planning Association's Distinguished Leadership Award for a Citizen Planner for 2000, and thanking her for her tireless efforts to build a better Rutherford County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.